Production on newsprint

50. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total domestic production and imported quantity of newsprint per annum, separately:

(b) whether there is a wide gap between the demand and the domestic production and imported quantity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken to increase domestic production during the next two years;

(e) the number of newsprint industries likely to be set up in private, cooperative and public sector during the period; and

(f) their present position, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) The total domestic production and imported quantity of newsprint during the year 1990-91 was 2.79 lakh M.T. and 2.26 lakh M.T. respectively.

(b) and (c). The total requirement of newsprint for the year 1990-91 was estimated at 5.65 lakh M.T.

(d) to (f) At present, the indigenous production of newsprint is not adequate to meet the requirement fully. Even though sufficient capacity of newsprint has been sanctioned by way of Industrial Licences/ Letters of Intent in addition to the existing installed capacity of 3.13 lakh M.T., the progress of its implementation is not satisfactory mainly on account of high capital cost and low profit making. However, Government is trying its best to increase the domestic production of newsprint.

Manufacture of T.V. sets

51. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where T.V. set manufacturing factories have been set up with the assistance of National Small Scale Industries Corporation; and

(b) whether the Government propose to ask National Small Scale Industries Corporation to encourage small entrepreneurs for setting up their factories in order to manufacture maximum T.V. sets in view of higher prices of colour T.V. sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) The National Small Industries Corporation, under their Raw Material Assistance Programme, has been extending assistance in procurement of electronic components, raw material and equipments to T.V. Manufacturing Units. The Corporation has assisted units in the State of Tamilnadu, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, U.P. and Union Territory of Delhi and Chandigarh.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Manufacturing and Launching of Satellites

52. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of satellites launched successfully into the space by India during the last three years and the working life there of;